

REMARKS

The Applicant cancels Claim 9.

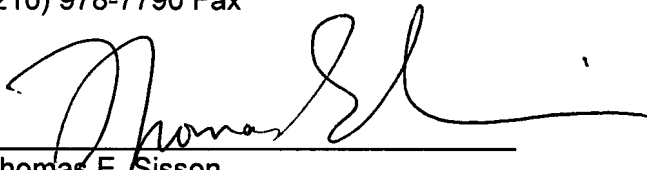
The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-8 under as being fully anticipated by **Breen** and further rejected Claims 7-8 under § 103 as unpatentable over **Breen** in view of **Abrams**.

Nothing in the cited art teaches or discloses both fiber and a binding composition of polyvinyl alcohol (PVA). PVA is easily dissolved in hot water and is biodegradable; yet when in its solid form, it provides the reinforcing strength for the present invention. Support for the presently amended claims is found in paragraphs 0021 and 0038 of the specification.

The Applicant asks the Examiner to reconsider the amended claims and issue a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Thomas E. Sisson', is written over a horizontal line.

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on the date shown below with the United States Postal Service, with sufficient postage as First Class Mail (37 CFR 1.8(a)), in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop: RESPONSE/NO FEE, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date:

JUNE 27, 2007

Shirley McIntyre

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shirley McIntyre", written over a horizontal line.